

The Vine

A Bird's Eye View

Spend a day or two and read Luke chapters 9 through 12. We will be digging into part of chapter 12. So as you read, take special note of the pieces in chapter 12. Do you see any themes or ideas that continue to pop up in Luke?

Week Three: Seek the Kingdom February 17 - 23, 2008

Worrying. Fretting. Losing sleep. Have you been there? Maybe you are there now. Even if you are not known as a "worrier" you have probably felt that heaviness in the bottom of your stomach that comes with worry. Webster's dictionary defines worry as "afflicting with mental distress or agitation: to make anxious." In this Vine, we will dig into a passage in which Jesus not only discusses worry, He tells us the solution.

Our hope is that you use this Vine in your daily devotionals in preparation for the worship services on February 23 and 24. Feel free to skim over the previous chapters in Luke to see the flow of the book.

First Encounter

Read Luke 12:22-28 twice.

What does Jesus command them not to do? Why?

Which particular worries does Jesus mention?

What does Jesus command them to do? How is this supposed to change us?

What is the opposite of worry? What do we hope to accomplish by worrying?

Take a moment and list things that make you worry or make you anxious.

Solomon

King Solomon was the third and final king of the combined Kingdom of Israel. He was shrewd and successful in trading. The New Bible Dictionary says, "His ties with Hiram of Tyre placed at his disposal fleets which enabled him to monopolize sea lanes." He acquired an enormous amount of wealth. 1 Kings 10:27 says, "The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones."

Prayer Reflection: Take some time and lay your worries before the Lord. Don't rush. Plead with him. Cry with him. Give him your worries. Then take some time to thank him for all the things he has provided for you. Be as specific as you can. Again, don't rush.

Second Encounter

Read Luke 12:22-34

Look at verses 29 to 34. What does Jesus command them not to do? Why?

Instead, he commands us to do what? How is this a solution to worry?

How should a pagan's worry be different than someone who follows Jesus?

If you were to ask your friends what you were seeking in your life, what would they say?

The Pagan World

Verse 30 mentions the pagan world in the NIV. The King James Version renders this "the nations of the world"; the New Living Translation says, "unbelievers all over the world." The dictionary says that a pagan is "one who has little or no religion and who delights in sensual pleasures and material goods."

Prayer Reflection: Lord, help me to realize when what I am seeking is not Your Kingdom. Help me to refocus my energy on wholeheartedly seeking after You.

Third Encounter

Read Luke 12:22-34. Which verse is your favorite? Why?

What does it mean to set your heart on something? What are some things your heart can be set on?

How is worry related to our view of God?

What does this passage say about the results of seeking the Kingdom? What are some practical ways we can seek His kingdom?

What are some general ways someone can make themselves purses that will not wear out? How do we know we are building treasure in heaven? How can you transfer a big purse on earth to a big purse in heaven?

What are some ways you can do one of these in the next few days?

Prayer Reflection: Ask the Lord to show you where your heart is. Ask the Lord to change your heart so that seeking His kingdom is natural for you.

Small Group Guide

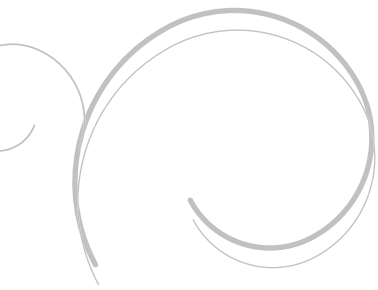
NOTE: This is a guide. The following questions are designed for you to choose the ones that best apply to your group. Feel free to add to these questions or reword them as you prayerfully prepare for your small group.


How many “do not’s” are in the passage? What are the “do’s” that follow them?

Verse 23 says life and body are more than material things. How do you think Jesus would define life and body?

What are the different ways we cope with worry? Which ones are most helpful? Most destructive?

What would life be like without anxious thoughts? Discuss the difference between worrying versus appropriate attention. What makes worrying bad? Is all worry bad?





What does Jesus list as the solution(s) to worry?

Is seeking after riches in heaven selfish?

Read the previous section, Luke 12:13-21. How does this tie into the concepts of worry and riches? Read the following section, Luke 12:35-40. How does this tie into the concept of seeking after the Kingdom?

As a group, what can you do to make purses for yourselves that do not wear out? Make some specific plans you can follow through with in the next few weeks.

Written by The Vine Team.
Email theVine@Kcconline.org
with comments or questions.
We would love to hear what
you think about it. We are also
looking for people willing to
help create The Vine, so if this
interests you, let us know.

